

CLASSIFICATION SECRETCOUNTRY East Germany

REPORT

TOPIC Military Activity in the Eighth Gds Army Area

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EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT

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DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED 6 October 1954

REFERENCES

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PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

This is UNEVALUATED  
Information

1. Between 16 and 19 September 1954, approximately 500 soldiers engaged in infantry training and driving practices with guns including 7 x 122-mm field howitzers and 16 x 100-mm AT guns in the Falk Kaserne (8321) in Merseburg.
2. At 1600 on 17 September, a train with 6 light AA guns, 5 fire-control devices, 38 trucks, 3 field kitchens, 1 boxcarload of ammunition and approximately 350 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia left the Eisenach railroad station toward Erfurt. The ammunition was shipped in boxes of 20 x 40 x 50 cm. Radio truck was seen. 1 According to railroadmen, a shipment of tanks was entrained at 0230 on 20 September. Between 16 and 21 September, motor vehicles
3. Between 20 and 22 September, the Kindel training grounds were occupied as previously and no troops arrived at, or departed from, this area. Motor vehicles were seen en route to and from the training grounds. 2
4. During the night on 17 September, engineer soldiers detrained at the Weimar railroad station. In the morning of 18 September, 6 flatcars, each with 2 pontoons, and 9 boxcars including one with billeting equipment were still standing at the station. On 19 September, shipments which passed through Weimar included:  
At about 1100, a shipment of 3 boxcars with soldiers and an undetermined number of flatcars with approximately 20 vehicles, 1 light AA gun and 1 light mortar.  
At about 1700, a shipment of 8 AT guns and approximately 15 vehicles. The trains came from the east and went west. A third train reportedly also went in this direction.  
 At 0830 on 22 September, a shipment of 12 heavy guns, 12 prime movers and approximately 15 trucks passed through Weimar. The train came from the west and went east. No troops other than an escorting detail were observed with the shipment.

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At 1700 on 22 September, a shipment with 7 AT guns, approximately 15 vehicles and 6 to 7 boxcars with personnel passed through Erfurt and proceeded eastward. Motor vehicle [ ] was seen. At 2200 on 22 September, a train carrying 8 vehicles and 8 T-34 tanks [ ] passed through Weimar and proceeded toward Gera. 3 On 22 September, 150 unarmed soldiers with little baggage arrived at the Weimar railroad station.

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5. On 19 September, the Nachrichten Kaserne (8504) in Weimar was occupied by approximately 400 soldiers who wore black-bordered black epaulets with signal insignia. The Panzer Kaserne (8507) was still occupied by a rear detail.
6. On 20 September, the Haupt Kaserne (8302) in Meiningen was no longer occupied to capacity. Approximately 150 soldiers drilled in the barracks yard. There was little vehicular traffic. [ ] 25X1  
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7. On 22 September, the barracks installations on either side of Leipziger Strasse (8101 and 8102) in Altenburg were occupied by 200 to 300 soldiers each. The bulk of the units appeared to be absent. 3 25X1
8. In September, unusually large numbers of young officers, predominantly lieutenants with their wives were seen in Jena. Most of the women appeared to be pregnant. Such large numbers of young officers' wives have not been seen before. [ ] 4 25X1
9. Between 3 and 24 September, the barracks installation in Jena-Loebstedt (8222) was occupied as previously by approximately 1,000 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery and tank insignia. In mid-September, several T-34 tanks were permanently stationed at the Roedigen training grounds. The tanks were used for driving practices. Between 12 and 24 September, the barracks installation in Jena-Zwaetzen (8221) was still vacant. The Forst Kaserne (8225) and the Polizei Kaserne (8223) were also unoccupied. 3 25X1
10. On 17 September, the Reuss Kaserne in Gera was still occupied by an artillery unit. The unit continuously conducted training in the Untermhaus training area. 3 25X1
11. Between 17 and 20 September, the Prinz-Louis-Ferdinand Kaserne (8481) in Saalfeld was occupied by approximately 600 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets including 300 soldiers with artillery insignia; 200 soldiers wearing black-bordered red epaulets; and 200 soldiers wearing black-bordered black epaulets. Approximately 300 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets engaged in the construction of semi-underground emplacements, presumably for rocket launchers. 3 25X1
1. [ ] Comment. Between 17 and 24 September, light AAA units of the Eighth Gds Army including units of the 57th Gds Mtz Rifle Div fired at Jueterbog. [ ] 25X1  
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2. [ ] Comment. [ ] the bulk of the 57th Gds Mtz Rifle Div was stationed at the Kindel training grounds until 22 September. 25X1
3. [ ] Comment. The movements tend to indicate that the troops assembled for all exercises. Artillery brigades from Altenburg probably also participated. The train at 0830 on 22 September was confirmed by two other sources. [ ] The direction of the troop movements and observations at the posts fail to furnish indications of the identity of the units involved. 25X1


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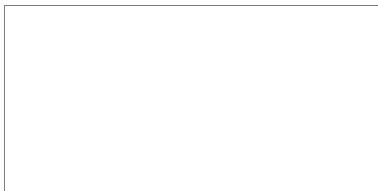
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4.  Comment. Observations in paragraph 9 tend to indicate that previous reports, according to which the bulk of the officers' dependents arrived in the Soviet Zone in December 1953 and January 1954, were correct.

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